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### **Sen. Stamas introduces bills to protect charitable fire departments**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, announced that legislation allowing fire departments to donate surplus equipment to fire departments in need without fearing liability was introduced Tuesday.

“It makes sense to remove the threat of liability from fire departments wishing to donate their equipment to other departments,” Stamas said. “The equipment used in fire service is extremely expensive and fire departments that want to make donations to other departments should not be penalized. This bill will allow fire departments across the state to save money and make good use of equipment still in good condition.”

Introduced by Stamas, Senate Bill 1318 amends the Governmental Liability for Negligence Act. The bill removes liability from organized fire departments that donate qualified fire control or rescue equipment to another organized fire department. This will release the donating party from liability for damages for personal injury, death or property damage, while providing standards prohibiting gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the donating party.

“It is very appropriate that this legislation is being introduced,” said Beaver Creek Fire Chief Ed Holtcamp. “Through grants, some departments have surplus equipment but because of the fear of liability, they are reluctant to donate that extra equipment to those in need. With this bill, everyone wins.”

“We really appreciate working with Tony on this,” said Trenton Fire Chief and Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs Legislative Director Joseph Grutza. “He has always been a friend of fire service and this bill would allow fire departments to contribute equipment to departments that are less fortunate.”

“We appreciate Senator Stamas taking the initiative with this bill and moving on this issue as soon as he found out there was a need,” added Holtcamp, past president and legislative liaison for the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

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